



March 1680
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A PROCLAMATION,

Regulating the prices of Ale and Drinking-Beer, proportionable to the price of the Weigh of Bear.



CHARLES, by the Grace of God, King of Great Britain, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, To
Machers, or Messengers at Arms, Our Sheriffs in part, conjunctly and severally, specially constitute,
Greeting; Forasmuch in pursuance of the fifteenth *Act* of the first Session of Our second *Parliament*, Authorising the Lords of Our
Privy Council to Regulate and set down the Prices of the Drink, proportionably to the price of the Bear. We and Our Privy
Council have emitted several Proclamations to that effect, and by a late Proclamation of the 23 December last, finding that the just
method of bringing different Measures to equality, can only be done by Weight, that so the Weight may control the Measure; did
Appoint, that the Bear should be sold by the Owners thereof to the Merchants, Mault-men and Brewers, by Weight and not by
Measure; and Ordained that when the Weigh of fifteen Stone of new Bear, or fourteen Stone of old Bear Troas Weight (deter-
mined old or new in manner therein mentioned,) is sold for six Pound *Scots*, that the Pint of the best Ale and best Drinking-beer
should be sold at twelve Pennies *Scots*; that when the price of the Weigh of Bear shall be eight Pound *Scots*, the price of the best
Ale and best Drinking-beer be twenty Pennies *Scots*; and when the price of the Weigh of Bear is at ten Pound *Scots*, the Pint of the best
Drink is to be sold at two shilling *Scots*; with the addition for the Excise and Imposition granted in behalf of the Town of Edinburgh,
for such Drink as should be browned, sold, brought into, and made use of within the same, during the time contained in the Im-
position granted in their behalf; and in case the price of the Weigh of Bear should fall below six pounds, or rise above ten pounds,

the price of the Drink was appointed to rise and fall accordingly, as the said Proclamation (appointing Tasters and Cunsters for trial of the sufficiency of the Drink, and ordaining several other things to be done and performed for the better Execution thereof) more fully proports. And whereas a great many Brewers within the Town of Edinburgh, Leith, Cannongate, Musselburgh, Dalkeith, Westport, and other places within the Shires of Edinburgh, Haddington and Linlithgow, have ad-
dressed themselves by humble Supplications to Our Council, representing the great difficulty that they and other Brewers will have to keep their Trade of Brewing at the prices specified in the said Proclamation, desiring that they might dispense therewith so far as they may be able to brew with some small advantage; and seeing the saids Brewers have consented that the price of the Weigh of Barley at fifteen Stone of Troas Weight shall be ten Merks, and the Weigh of rough Bear of the said weight nine Merks of all that is browned and made in Mault of the Crop 1679; and it being most just and reasonable, that all Brewers, great and small, should be in an equal and like condition, (as to the price of the Drink to be sold by them, and the price of the Bear of which the same is made,) which cannot be made practicable if they should be permitted to buy Bear at different prices, in respect that he who buys Bear below the foreaid price, may undersell those that buy at the same, and so may inhaunce and ingrois to themselves the Trade and benefit of Brewing, to the prejudice and ruine of others; And for preventing the inconvenience and prejudice foreaid, it is thought necessary, and is proposed and desired by the saids Brewers, that the said price should be settled, as a just and uniform price to be payed for this Year by all Brewers and Mault-men who shall buy Bear for brewing or making of Mault within the said Town and Shires, and that of their own consent they should be obliged and grant Bonds to the effect foreaid: We thereforee with Advice of Our Privy Council in prosecution of the said Act of Parliament and Proclamation foreaid, do hereby discharge any Person or Persons, Brewers, great or small, within the said Burgh of Edinburgh, Leith and Cannongate, or Suburbs thereof, or within the saids Shires of Edinburgh, Linlithgow and Haddington, to take upon them, upon pretext of any former License, or upon any other pretext or ground whatsoever, to brew any Ale or Drinking-beer, until they first subscribe the said Bond, and upon subscribing thereof obtain a License for that effect from Our Privy Council, or their Committee, which Persons subscribing the said Bond, and receiving License aforesaid, are hereby allowed not only to brew single Ale at the price of twenty pennies the Pint, with the addition for the Excise and Imposition granted in behalf of the Town of Edinburgh, but also to brew double or three shilling Ale; providing, that they who brew the double Ale, shall also be obliged to brew the single Ale, in which case We have in so far dispensed with Our former Proclamation in behalf of the saids Brewers, until the tenth day of September next: And whereas Mault-men and others, who take upon them to make Mault within the said Burghs, do exact far greater Rates betwixt the price of the boal or Bear and the boal of Mault, then what is allowed by the Ancient Laws made in that behalf, We do hereby discharge any Person whatsoever within the saids Burghs to make Mault, until they find Caution that they shall buy the Bear at the price foreaid, and that they shall take but ten shillings *Scots* for making a Weigh of Bear, and no more, and obtain a license for that effect as aforesaid, as they will be answerable at their peril: And in regard that divers Persons within the City of Edinburgh, Cannongate, Abbey, Caldwells, Craig-end, Yard-heads, New-lane, Pleasants and St. Ninians Row, who are Vintners of Wine, Cooks, or Stablers, do both brew, tap and sell Ale, and Drinking-beer browned by themselves, whereby they may sell their Drink with greater advantage than other Brewers, and so may undersell the other Brewers, to their great hurt and prejudice; We do hereby discharge any Vintners of Wine, Cooks, or Stablers in the said Burghs, to vent or retail any Ale or Drinking-beer, or if they continue in their retailing, to quite their brewing, as they will be answerable at their peril. And whereas both Brewers, Vintners, and the Leidges sustain great damage by the unequal measure of Barrels, some being above measure, and some under, occasioned chiefly by the neglect and fault of Coupers; We do hereby Ordain all Coupers that make any Brewers Casks, to make them no bigger then with the addition of a Choppin to each Gallon; Ordaining every Couper to put his own Mark upon his own Work, that the Contraveeners may be known, and that all Casks already made be justed and made equal, betwixt and the first day of June next, as the said Coupers and Brewers will be answerable at their peril. And to the effect the sufficiency of the Drink may be known, the Brewers are hereby discharged to give out any Drink forth of their Store-houses, until the same be tasted by Tasters and Cunsters; and Tapsters are discharged to vent or sell the same, or any part thereof, till the same be tasted in their Houces, or Sellars, under the penalty of four shilling *Scots*, for each Barrel, in case of failzie: And both Brewer and Tapster is to be answerable for the sufficiency of the Drink, but prejudice to the Tapster to have relief off the Brewer, if he crave the same, as accords. And to the effect the Tapster may have moderate advantage for the tapping of their Drink, We Ordain, that hereafter the Tapster shall have four pennies *Scots* for tapping each pint of Drink, and no more, as they will be answerable. And We do Declare, that the constant Weigh of Barley, or rough Bear, shall in all seasons hereafter be fifteen Stone Troas Weight: And for the more effectual prosecution of the saids Proclamations, We have thought fit to grant full Power and Commission to the Committee of Our Privy Council, to give order and command to ten Brewers for the Town of Edinburgh, and ten Brewers for the Shire of Edinburgh, and to appoint their Quorum, who are to enquire after the Transgessours, and to proceed conform to Instructions to be given them by the said Committee of Our Council, who are to sit at Edinburgh, and are hereby impowered to alter and change the saids Commissioners, and appoint such a number for their Quorum, from time to time, as they shall judge fit: And to the effect this may have the same success in all the other Shires of this Kingdom, We do hereby give and grant full Power and Commission to the Persons underwritten for the respective Shires aforesaid, *Viz.* For the Shire of Edinburgh, the Lord Thesaurer Depute, and the Lord Collingtoun; For the Shire of Linlithgow, the Earl of Linlithgow; For the Shire of Haddington, the Earl of Winton, the Earl of Haddington, Sir John Nisbet of Dirleton, Sir William Sharp, John Wedderburn of Gifford; For the Shires of Fife and Kinross, the Earl of Rothes, the Lord Burntisland, the Laird of Lundie; For the Shire of Perth, the Marques of Athol, Lord Privy Seal, the Earl of Perth, the Earl of Caithness, Sir George Kinnaird of Roche; For the Shire of Fife, the Earl of Southesk, the Earl of Strathmore, Sir George Kinnaird of Rossie, Rirchard Maitland of Duke; For the Shire of Kincardine, the Earl Marischal, the Viscount of Arbuthnott; For the Shire of Aberdene, the Earl of Errol, the Earl Marischal, the Earl of Dumfermling, the Laird of Kirtore, the Laird of Melrur; For the Shire of Bamff, the Earl Marischal, the Earl of Arley; For the Shire of Elgin, the Earl of Murray, the Lord Down, the Lord Duffus; For the Shires of Inverness and Nairn, the Earl of Murray, the Lord Down, Sir George Mackenzie of Tarbet, Lord Justice General; For the Shire of Ross and Cromarty, Sir George Mackenzie of Recklaugh, Our Advocate, Sir George Mackenzie of Tarbet, Lord Justice General, Sir George Munro; For the Shire of Sutherland, the Earl of Sutherland, the Lord Duffus; For the Shire of Caithness, the Earl of Caithness, the Laird of Dunbeth; For the Shire of Orkney, Captain Dick, Commissary Mackenzie; For the Shire of Argyle, the Earl of Argyle; For the Shire of Stirling, the Earl of Murray, the Earl of Mar, the Lord Elphinstone; For the Shire of Berwick, the Laird of Langtown, the Laird of Cockburn, Sir William Sharp; For the Shire of Renfrew, the Earl of Dundonald, the Lord Ross; For the Upper-ward of Clydesdale, the Marques of Douglas, the Earl of Carrwath; For the Nether-ward of Clydesdale, the Duke of Hamilton, the Lord Ross; For the Shire of Ayr, the Lord President of the Session, the Lord Justice Clerk; For the Shire of Dumfartoun, the Marques of Montrose, the Earl of Glencairn, the Earl of Wigton; For the Shire of Wigton, the Lord President of the Session, Sir John Dalrymple; For the Stewartry of Kirkcudbright, the Earl of Nithsdale, the Laird of Baldoon, the Laird of Burghton; For the Shire of Dumfries, the Earl of Queensberry; For the Shire of Selkirk, Scot of Harwood; For the Shire of Peebles, the Earl of Tweedale; For the Shire of Clackmannan, the Earl of Mar, the Laird of Clackmannan; For the Shire of Roxburgh, the Earl of Roxburgh, the Earl of Haddington, Sir Andrew Ramsay of Abbotshall, and for the whole Burghs within the same, together with the Sheriff, or his Depute, and Commissioners of Excise of the Landward, (excluding the Commissioners of Excise of Royal-Burghs) or so many of them as shall happen to meet with the saids Persons commissionate at such times and places as the Persons commissionate shall appoint. And We Ordain the first meeting to be at the Head-Burgh of the respective Shires upon the 29 of March instant, for all the Shires on this side of Aberdene; and the 15 of April for Aberdene, and all benorth the same; with full Power to the saids Persons commissionate, to call before them all Brewers and Mault-men, within Burgh or Landward in the said respective Shires, and to cause them subscribe the Bond appointed by Our said first Proclamation of the 23 of December last, and thereupon to grant them Licenses to brew conform to the tenor thereof; which Licenses are to be signed by three of the Commissioners, at least, and one of the said Commissioners to be a Privy Counsellor, if any be within the Shire, or the Sheriff in case there be none; and in case they do not subscribe the said Bond, to proceed against them conform to the Act of Parliament and Proclamation foreaid, and to do and perform every other thing requisite and necessary for making Our said Proclamation practicable, and putting the same to due and full execution; and with Power to them, if the Brewers and Mault-men shall submit and give Bond to pay six pound *Scots* for the rough Bear of the last Crop, to allow them to brew twenty penny Ale, and double or three shilling Ale, and grant them Licenses for that effect, in manner foreaid. And We hereby Declare that Our said former Proclamation of the twenty third of December last, doth stand in full force to all intents and purposes, except in so far as the same is hereby innovate or altered. And this Our Proclamation and Commission, We Ordain to stand in full force until the tenth day of September next, or longer, until We or Our Council think fit to recall the same. Our Will is therefore, and We charge you strictly, and Command, that incontinent, these Our Letters seen, ye pass to the Mercat-crosses of Edinburgh, and whole Mercat-crosses and Paroch-Churches of this Kingdom, and therat, in Our Name and Authority, make publication of the same, with Our former Proclamation. And ordains the Sheriffs of the respective Shires to take care to see same done accordingly, as they will be answerable; that all Persons concerned may have notice thereof, and give obedience thereto. And ordains these Presents to be printed. Given under Our Signet, at Edinburgh, the sixth day of March, One thousand six hundred and eighty Years; and of Our Reign the thirty two Year.

GOD save the KING.

Per actum Dominum Secreti Concilij.
WILL. PATERSON, Cl. Sti. Concilij.



МОИ ТАМАДОЧКИ

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At what age did birds first sing?

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ס"ה ס"ה ס"ה